

Dear Incoming Kindergarten Students,

We cannot wait to meet you in September! Here are some fun activities for you to do over the summer to maintain your skills and prepare you for kindergarten:

- Practice writing your first and last name (Refer to the HWT letter formation pages for uppercase and lowercase).
 - Start with an uppercase letter and continue with lowercase letters.
 - Use short crayons or golf pencils for writing. They are best for practicing the correct pencil grip.
- Practice writing words or names of important people
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters in the alphabet. Cut out or circle letters in magazines and newspapers.
- Play the letter game.
 - Ex.: Bb – say the letter – Give the sound that it makes; name a word beginning with that sound.
 - Practice different letters in the alphabet in this way.
- Play a rhyming word game. What rhymes with hat?
- Cut out letters from a magazine to make your name.
- If you go to the beach, write letters in the sand!
- Once you know your letters and the sounds they make, you can begin to learn some of our kindergarten sight words – I, am, the, little, to, and, at, a, has, red. See the entire sight word list for more.
- Count to 30 or higher if you can.
- Cut out numbers (from 0-30) from the newspaper and read them out loud.
- Learn and practice your address, phone number and birthday.
- Continue to do things for yourself – buttoning, zipping, cleaning up, practicing opening and closing small snack and lunch containers as you will do these things in kindergarten.
- Read with someone special and talk about a book each day. See our favorite summer read aloud list. Record all your stories in the summer reading log and bring it to us in September.

See you soon,

The Kindergarten Teachers and Dr. Coppola

Great Read Aloud Stories for Kindergarten

Pete the Cat by Eric Litwin

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Peter's Chair by Ezra Jack Keats

Corduroy by Don Freeman

Swimmy by Leo Lionni

The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

There's a Nightmare in my Closet by Mercer Mayer

Little Blue and Little Yellow by Leo Lionni

The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle

Ira Sleeps Over by Bernard Waber

Hop on Pop by Dr. Seuss

Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss

Brown Bear, Brown Bear What Do You See by Bill Martin Jr.

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie by Laura Jaffe Numeroff

Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McCloskey

Curious George by H. A Rey

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes

Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson

Miss Nelson is Missing by Harry Allard

Are You my Mother? by P.D. Eastman

Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel by Virginia Lee Burton



Kindergarten Sight Word List

I	my	see	one	yellow
am	like	look	two	blue
the	he	of	five	green
little	for	they	four	was
to	not	you	three	said
a	him	in	here	what
on	this	her	from	where
and	them	were	go	come
has	can	which	your	there
at	it	up	these	when
red	out	big	who	their
have	me	are	why	how
is	with	that	help	down
we	she	do	good	jump

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Correct letter formation is a priority for children as they learn to write. Handwriting is much more than simply putting letters on a page. Learning to write is an important part of learning to read and communicate.

Specialists have shared that poor handwriting habits (i.e. wrong pencil grip; writing from bottom-up, etc.) learned at an early age are very difficult to break as the children get older. Therefore, if and when you are working with your child on handwriting, please keep in mind that the results will be best when you sit with your child as he/she forms the letters. This is to ensure that your child is using the proper formation.

Please use the following guidelines for all handwriting completed at home:

1. Always ask your child to write his/her name neatly on the paper.
2. Always use a short pencil or crayon.
3. Make sure your child is sitting properly in a chair.
4. Each letter formed starts at the top and pulls down.
5. Please make sure your child uses proper formation for each letter. Refer to the attached chart.
6. If a specific letter is being practiced, ask your child to circle his/her best letter when complete.

Please refer to the Handwriting Without Tears "HWT" letter formation pages for upper and lower case letters. Thank you for your continued support over the summer. We look forward to the positive impact of your help and involvement at home as your child moves onto kindergarten.

Sincerely,

The Pre-K Teachers, Kindergarten Teachers and Dr. Coppola

Pencil Grip Tips

A common concern often expressed by teachers is a child's immature pencil grip. There are various reasons why a child may be holding his/her crayon or pencil awkwardly. For instance, weak shoulder muscles, weak hand muscles, delayed fine motor coordination, poor sensory awareness and lack of exposure are common contributors. Although not all children will develop the optimal grip, it is a good idea to encourage it to avoid the possibility of problems in the future.

You may not necessarily know what the specific underlying cause of a child's atypical grip is, but you can certainly pick and choose from the following strategies because they will all be helpful for developing a better grasp. Some strategies are particularly helpful and can easily be incorporated into different activities. For instance, writing or any activity (pegboard, flannel boards, magnets, stencils, etc.) on a vertical surface is typically the most effective means for improving grasp. Try this helpful hint first. The following are additional suggestions. They can be incorporated/modeled during various parts of the day to entice the child to participate in developmentally beneficial play.

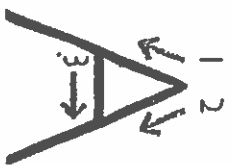
Shoulder strengthening

- Activities on a vertical surface
- Wheelbarrow walking
- Activities on stomach, lying on floor
- Floor, wall or chair pushups
- Stacking chairs on tables
- Clapping erasers
- Pushing/pulling heavy objects
- Using an easel
- Crab walking
- Washing/erasing black board

Hand strengthening

- Using tiny, broken pieces of chalk or crayons
- Eye droppers
- Finger puppets
- Coins/buttons into a bank with one hand
- Tweezers
- Crumbling tissue paper
- Simple sign language
- Snapping fingers
- Using squirt guns/toys
- Pick up sticks
- Jacks
- Using small staplers
- Lacing card activities
- Stringing beads, straw bits, pasta
- Tearing paper
- Spin tops
- Making rubber band balls
- Keys and locks
- Playdoh activities
- Hole punchers
- Marbles
- Flicking

Handwriting Without Tears®



Big line
Big line
Little line



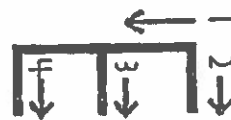
Big line
Little curve
Little curve



Big C curve



Big line
Big curve



Big line
Little line
Little line
Little line



Big line
Little line
Little line



Big curve
Little line
Little line



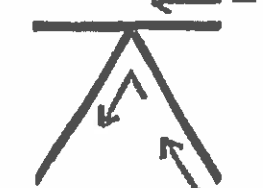
Big line
Big line
Little line



Big line
Little line
Little line



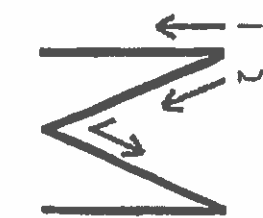
Big line
Turn
Little line



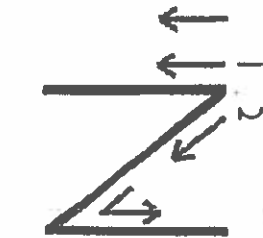
Big line
Little line
Little line



Big line
Little line



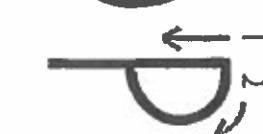
Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



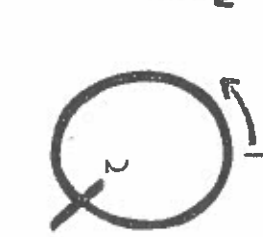
Big line
Big line
Big line



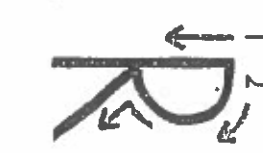
Big C curve
Keep going



Big line
Little curve



Big C curve
Keep going
Little line



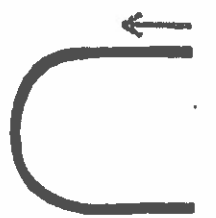
Big line
Little curve
Little line



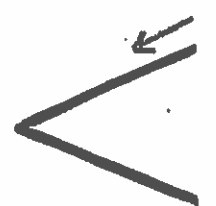
Little curve
Turn
Little curve



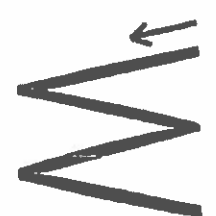
Big line
Little line



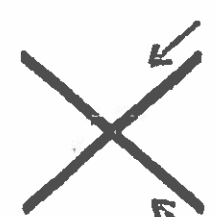
Big line
Turn
Big line



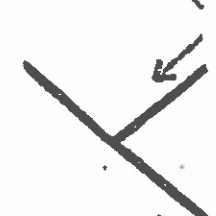
Big line
Big line



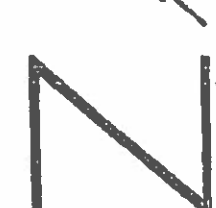
Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line



Little line
Big line



Little line
Big line
Little line

Home Fine Motor and Letter Practice for Home

Magic c up like e bump back down bump

dive down swim up and over around bump

Magic c

Magic c up like e up higher back down bump

start hit the ball run the bases stop

All feet, come up. Then go straight down. up down bump the line cross

Magic c up like e back down turn

dive down swim up and over down

Dots for you! down bump

Dots for you! down turn

down bump the line kick slide away

Start at the top! down bump the line

start with n swim up and over down (n has two humps)

dive down swim up and over down (l has one hump)

Some Favorite Educational Websites

Various Skills:

www.pbskids.org

www.nickjr.com

www.funbrain.com

www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html

www.handsonaswegrow.com

Literacy and Phonics:

www.starfall.com

www.spellingcity.com put in the new spelling words each week and play a variety of games using them

<http://classroom.ic-schools.net/basic/la-read.html> lots of activities and focused heavily on reading comprehension

www.readingeggs.com

Math and Puzzles:

www.aaamath.com

www.aplusmath.com

www.thekidzpage.com

www.ABCYA.com

Social Studies, Science and Current Events:

www.kids.nationalgeographic.com

www.scholasticnews.com

www.timeforkids.com/TFK/kids

www.brainpop.com

Keyboarding and Technology Skills:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing>

www.jennybharris.com helps young children with the use of the mouse

Nutrition and Health Related Topics:

www.kidshealth.org

For Parents

<http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/CompactforReading/index.html>

Preschool Science:

www.scienceforpreschoolers.com/

Cooking with Kids:

www.kids-cooking-activities.com/non-reader-recipes.html

www.ittybittybistro.com/

www.tasteofhome.com/kids-Coloring-Cookbook

Springfield Public School Libraries' Catalogs:

<http://destiny.springfieldschools.com>